

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00035 120924Z

21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1540

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID SO FR

SUBJ: DENIAU VISIT - SOMALI POLICY TOWARD FRANCE

REF: MOGADISCIO 1851 (DEC 73)

1. SUMMARY: RECENT VISIT OF HIGH FRENCH FONMIN OFFICIAL DEMONSTRATED GSDR WILLINGNESS DURING PRESENT ECONOMIC SQUEEZE TO ENCOURAGE POSSIBLE BILATERAL FRENCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BY DISPLAYING PUBLIC RESTRAINT ON DJIBOUTI. THIS RESTRAINT ALSO ACCORDS WITH REAL LIMITATIONS WHICH GSDR FACES IN PROMOTING DISSIDENCE WITHIN TFAI. NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE HAS TAKEN POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IMPROVING FRENCH-SOMALI RELATIONS. SUCH WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN INTERESTS OF FRANCE (AS STEP TOWARD SAFEGUARDING THEIR INTERMEDIATE-TERM TENURE IN DJIBOUTI) AND US (AS IT HELPS BOLSTER WESTERN STOCK IN SOMALIA AND MAKES FOR GREATER STABILITY IN THE HORN). END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE DENIAU GOT WARM RECEPTION AND
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00035 120924Z

GOOD PUBLICITY DURING FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SOMALIA IN LATE DECEM-

BER. MEDIA COVERAGE MADE NO MENTION OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF TFAI, AND FRENCH EMBOFF REPORTS THAT GSDR DID NOT RAISE TFAI WITH DENIAU.

3. MAIN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH AID PROJECTS. AN ACCORD WAS PUBLICLY SIGNED UNDER WHICH FRENCH AGREED TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF THREE PROJECTS: TV STATION FOR MOGADISCIO AREA; DATE PLANTATION IN NORTH; AND FURNISHING THREE OR FOUR FRENCH LANGUAGE TEACHERS. FRENCH EMBOFF REPORTS THAT SOMALIS ALSO SOUGHT FRENCH AID FOR TWO MUCH LARGER PROJECTS: HARD-SURFACING HARGEISA-DJIBOUTI ROAD IN NORTH; AND COMBINED IRRIGATION DAM/ELECTRIC POWER/SUGAR REFINERY SCHEME ON JUBA RIVER IN SOUTH. FRENCH WERE ENTIRELY NON-COMMITTAL ON THESE LARGER PROJECTS.

4. "PERIODIC MEETINGS" REPORTEDLY WERE AGREED TO. VISIT BY POMPIDOU, WHO ANNOUNCED ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF SOMALI GOVERNMENT INVITATION LAST JANUARY, WAS DISCUSSED BUT NO TIME SET. WE HAVE IMPRESSION FROM DENIAU AND FRENCH EMBASSY HERE THAT PROSPECTS FOR VISIT UNCERTAIN, BUT FRENCH EMBOFF SAID IT MIGHT POSSIBLY OCCUR IN NEXT YEAR OR TWO. (SOMALIS HAD HOPED IT WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR, AND DENIAU VISIT ARRANGED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN PART AS CONSOLATION FOR POMPIDOU'S FAILURE TO COME.)

5. COMMENT: A. GSDR RESTRAINT ON TFAI QUESTION WOULD APPEAR TO BE NECESSARY FOR ANY HOPE OF FRENCH AID. SOMALIS HAVE ASSERTED TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT THEY TOOK MODERATE LINE ON TFAI WITHIN OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN MOGADISCIO LAST OCTOBER AND SUBSEQUENTLY. REPORTS WE HAVE ON NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS IN TFAI SUGGEST THAT MANY SOMALIS THERE MAY ACCEPT FRENCH RULE AT PRESENT AS LESSER EVIL THAN "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALIST" REGIME IN SOMALIA. (FULLER DISCUSSION BY AIRGRAM.) THUS, PROSPECTS WOULD IN ANY CASE APPEAR DIM FOR SUCCESSFUL SOMALI IRREDEMIST ACTIVITY AGAINST FRENCH IN TFAI AT THIS TIME.

B. SOMALIS HAVE SHOWN NEW RESTRAINT IN PUBLICITY OF TFAI IN RECENT MONTHS. EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS INTEMPERATE ARTICLE IN "INDEPENDENT" NEW ERA LAST OCTOBER. AFTER FRENCH AMBASSADOR PROTESTED TO GSDR ABOUT THIS ARTICLE HE RECEIVED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT SIAD, WHO PERSONALLY APOLOGIZED FOR ARTICLE AND SAID AUTHOR WOULD BE PUNISHED. CURRENT SOMALI PUBLIC POS-
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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00035 120924Z

TURE ON TFAI APPEARS TO US TO BE GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF HEIGHTENED GSDR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE TEMPORARY COMPROMISES TO HELP OBTAIN OUTSIDE AID IN CURRENT ECONOMIC SQUEEZE, AND OF SOMALI BELIEF THAT WESTER EUROPE IS IMPORTANT SOURCE OF SUCH ADDITIONAL HELP (REFTEL, PARA. 7).

C. NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE HAS TAKEN POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IMPROVING FRENCH-SOMALI RELATIONS. HE SPEAKS PRIVATELY OF HAVING TAKEN INITIATIVE TO ARRANGE DENIAU VISIT, FIRST IN

PARIS, THEN WITH SOMALIS. HE HOPES FRENCH WILL BE FORTHCOMING ABOUT ECONOMIC AID. HE IS ALSO URGING THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN DJIBOUTI BE SOMEWHAT LESS NEGATIVE IN THEIR POLICY ON TFAT TRADE WITH SOMALIA.

D. BY USING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CARROT WITH SOMALIS, FRENCH WOULD SEEM TO BE TAKING CONSTRUCTIVE STEP TOWARD SAFE-GUARDING THEIR INTERMEDIATE-TERM TENURE IN DJIBOUTI BY DAMPENING GSDR DESIRE TO PUSH AT PRESENT TIME ITS LONG-TERM AIM OF "LIBERATION" OF TFAI PEOPLES.

E. WE BELIEVE IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND SOMALIA IS IN US INTEREST, AS IT HELPS BOLSTER WESTERN STOCK IN SOMALIA AND WORKS FOR GREATER STABILITY IN HORN. KIRK

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